

Speaker Biographies

Maria Mehranian is the Managing Partner and CFO for Cordoba Corporation, a civil engineering, construction management, and program management firm specializing in transportation, education & facilities, and water & energy. Maria has served on the LA Water Quality Control Board since 2008, chairing in 2012 and 2013. She has participated in a number of water policy panels and served as guest lecturer at universities on water quality and supply issues.

Jeffrey Kightlinger is general manager and CEO for The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), the largest municipal water provider in the nation delivering an average of over 2 billion gallons of water a day to 19 million customers across Southern California. Kightlinger was appointed general manager in 2006. Kightlinger has an undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley and a law degree from Santa Clara University. He serves on a number of boards including the Coro Foundation, the USC Price School of Public Policy, the UCLA Sustainability Advisory Board, the Climate Action Reserve, the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy, the LA Economic Development Council and the LA Chamber of Commerce.

Danny Merkley joined the California Farm Bureau Federation as director of water resources in 2007. He represents the Farm Bureau before the state legislature and regulatory agencies on policy issues related to water development and water quality. Prior to joining the Farm Bureau, Danny was district director for Congressman Dan Lungren (R-CA). He previously worked as agricultural liaison with the State Water Resources Control Board, where he specialized in water quality issues and carried farmers' and ranchers' concerns to the regional and state water boards. Danny worked on the family farm growing up and is a former member of the Solano County Farm Bureau board of directors. He is currently a member of the Yolo County Farm Bureau.

Shane Chapman is the General Manager of the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, one of the twenty-six member agencies that comprise the MWD. Mr. Chapman's experience in water resources management includes systematic operations, capital project development and finance, and strategic and resources-based planning.

Mr. Chapman is a former member of the American Water Works Association's (AWWA) Rates and Charges Committee, and has served as a board member to both the Urban Water Institute and the California Utility Emergency Association. Mr. Chapman holds a Masters of Public Administration from the USC Price School of Public Policy and a BA in Economics from Claremont McKenna College.

Mike Antos is the Director of the Center for Urban Water Resilience at CSUN. Previously, he worked at the Council for Watershed Health leading projects related to integrated water management, disadvantaged community engagement, stormwater capture for groundwater augmentation, and assessment of watershed health. He is a Doctoral Candidate at UCLA Department of Geography researching how we organize ourselves to make environmental decisions. Mike is a member of the Water Resources Group of UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, on the board of the LA-based Coalition for our Water Future, and a Fellow of the Robert & Patricia Switzer Foundation.

Cassy Aoyagi, president of FormLA® Landscaping, is an accredited designer in the USGBC's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program and board president of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers and Native Plants. Aoyagi aims to transform LA's urban spaces into vibrantly beautiful, sustainable places to connect with nature. Her firm created the New Look for LA display at Descanso Gardens, and her work has been covered in *InStyle*, *Sunset*, and *Dwell* magazines and on HGTV. Aoyagi contributes to the LA Times' SoCal Garden Clinic, Houzz, and the USGBC's Green Home Guide.

Brian Barreto was appointed as California American Water External Affairs Manager for Southern California in December 2008. Brian delivers strategic, proactive customer, government, and interagency communications, website content, and community relations that support the company's continued success in LA, San Diego and Ventura Counties. Brian also served as associate director of Latino Outreach and as deputy chief of staff at the National Economic Council at the White House for President Clinton. Brian holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Whittier College and is a candidate for a master's degree at the Claremont Graduate School.